(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the foodgrains in large quantity was kept in L.N. N. godown of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh for more than one year; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against the guilty officers responsible for wastage of foodgrains in the godown?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The foodgrains allotted by Government of India to Orissa for relief in the event of super cyclone of October, 1999 were issued by Food Corporation of India from the stocks of foodgrains available in its godowns in the state. No reports have been received by Government about foodgrains allotted to Orissa for cyclone relief being kept in large quantity in the godowns for more than a year.

(c) No such report has been received by the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Delegation to enquire into rejection of wheat by Iraq

3362. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation was sent to meet Iraqi officials in order to find out why the shipments of Indian wheat was first found substandard there and later fit in Dubai; and

(b) if so, what are their findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian wheat was not substandard and conformed to the CODEX Standards. As per the International CODEX standards, foreign matter in the grain is permissible upto 2%, out of which 1.5% may consist of organic matter, such as chaff, weed seed, other edible and inedible grains, etc. and the balance 0.5% inorganic foreign matter, such as stones, sand, dust etc. Quality specification prescribed in the Iraqi contract provided for the presence of foreign matter upto 2%. There was no further break-up of this 2% into organic and inorganic foreign matter. The Indian delegation that visited Iraq was, however, informed by Iraqi authorities that, according to their

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definition, they do not count sand particles under foreign matter. In other words, inorganic matter, which is a part and parcel of foreign matter like sand, stones, pebbles clay particles etc. are not accepted under this category. The explanation given by them was that only organic foreign matter (like chaff, glumes, weed seeds and other edible and inedible grains) are taken under this category. The exporters did not know this position. They presumed that, as in the CODEX standards, the 2% foreign matter would include upto 0.5% inorganic matter. The delegation was further informed that the Iraqi flour mills were not having adequate facilities for separation of inorganic matter because of the problem of spare parts required for maintenance of such machines owing to UN sanctions. The delegation was further informed that Iraq had also rejected the wheat sourced from various other countries on the same grounds. As the consignment conformed to the CODEX standards, it was accepted in Dubai.

BPL population in Uttaranchal

†3363. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of people living Below the Poverty Line in Uttaranchal is less as compared to those in the plain areas; and

(b) if so, the actual number and the percentage thereof alongwith the quantum of foodgrains being allocated to the State under this head, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line at national and State level from the large sample survey data on consumer expenditure. The latest estimates of poverty are available for year 1999-2000 based on the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of the 55th Round. It gives the poverty estimate for the State of Uttar Pradesh. According to this, 31.15% of the total population of Uttar Pradesh is living below poverty line. The estimate of poverty separately for Uttaranchal is not available.

(b) For the purpose of allocation of foodgrains for BPL families under TPDS, Planning Commission's estimate percentage of BPL population for